

What is claimed is:

## CLAIMS

1. A plant comprising a recombinant transgene capable of expressing a kinase domain of a mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase (MAPKKK) or a kinase domain thereof, wherein said transgene is expressed in said plant under the control of a promoter that is functional in a plant cell.
2. The plant of claim 1, wherein said transgene comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from a fungus.
3. The plant of claim 1, wherein said transgene comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from an animal.
4. The plant of claim 1, wherein said transgene comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from a plant.
5. The plant of claim 1, wherein said transgene consists essentially of said kinase domain.
6. The plant of claim 1, wherein said plant is a dicot.
7. The plant of claim 1, wherein said plant is a monocot.
8. A seed from a plant of claim 1.
9. A cell from a plant of claim 1.
10. A vector comprising a promoter functional in plant cells operably linked to a gene encoding a MAPKKK polypeptide or kinase domain thereof.

12. The vector of claim 10, wherein said vector comprises a gene encoding MAPKKK kinase domain.

13. The vector of claim 11, wherein said kinase domain is obtained from a plant MAPKKK.

14. A cell comprising the vector of claim 10.

15. The cell of claim 14, wherein said cell is a plant cell.